REMARKS

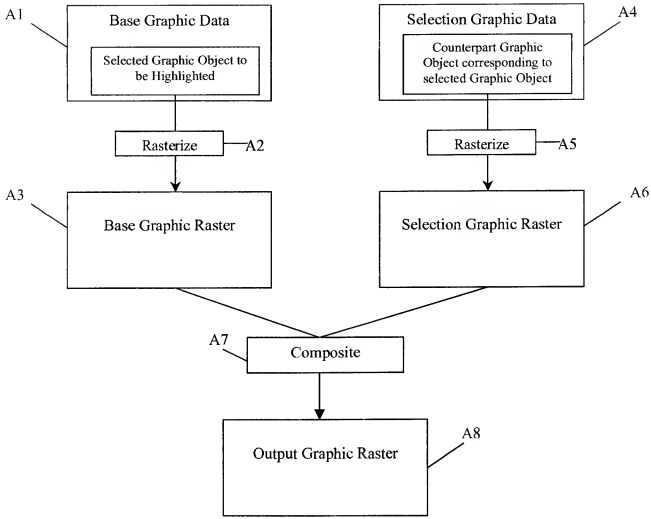
Further to the Response dated November 14, 2006, Claims 1-26 and 28-53 are pending, with Claims 1, 52, and 53 in independent form. Claims 1, 52, and 53 have been amended by this Response. Although these claims are not so limited, support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least at paragraphs [0025]-[0030]. Applicants note that the changes to Claims 1, 52, and 53 explicitly recite that which was already at least impliedly required by such claims. Accordingly, the scope of these claims is submitted to not have been narrowed by these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-3, 21-22, 44, and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,337,700 (Kinoe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,276,786 (Long et al.). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the rejecting references, taken separately or in any proper combination for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 requires a computer-implemented method for highlighting a selected object on a display. The method includes receiving unrasterized base graphic data including a selected graphic object to be highlighted, and providing unrasterized selection graphic data including a counterpart graphic object corresponding to the selected graphic object; the method also includes rasterizing the base graphic data to yield a base graphic raster; rasterizing the selection graphic data to yield a selection graphic raster; and, compositing the base graphic raster and the selection graphic raster to yield an output graphic raster for display. The output graphic raster includes pixels representing a highlighting of the selected graphic object.

Notable aspects of Claim 1 are summarized in the below figure, FIG A, which models FIG. 1 of the present application.

FIG. A



As illustrated in FIG. A, Claim 1 requires the existence of unrasterized base graphic data (A1) and unrasterized selection graphic data (A4). The selection graphic data (A4) includes counterpart graphic objects corresponding to a selected graphic object present in the base graphic data. Claim 1 also includes separate steps for rasterizing the base graphic data (A4) to yield a base graphic raster (A3) and rasterizing the selection graphic data (A5) to yield a selection graphic raster (A6). The base graphic raster (A3) and the selection graphic raster (A6) are then composited (A7) to form an output graphic raster (A8) that includes pixels representing a highlighting of the selected object.

In contrast to independent Claim 1, the Kinoe, et al. patent is understood to be silent regarding separate rasterizations of base graphic data and selection graphic data, as well as the subsequent compositing of the base graphic

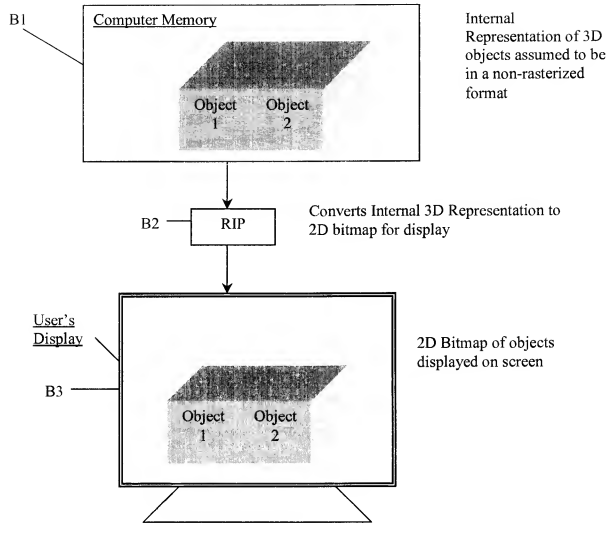
raster and selection graphic raster to form an output graphic raster including pixels representing a highlighting of a selected graphic object.

The Office Action and subsequently issued Advisory Action are understood to agree that the Kinoe, et al. patent does not explicitly describe these features of Claim 1. However, if Applicants understand the position taken by the Office Action correctly, the Examiner is reasoning, that these elements are necessarily present in the Kinoe, et al. patent or are obvious therefrom based upon the teachings of the Long, et al. patent.

In particular, and with reference to FIG. B, below, the Office Action and subsequently issued Advisory Action are understood to take the view that the Kinoe, et al. patent must have an internal representation of its three-dimensional CAD objects that is in a non-rasterized format. The Office Action is then understood to reason that such internal representation must be rasterized and converted to a two-dimensional format in order to be displayed on a user's screen.

(Examiner's understanding of the Kinoe, et al. Patent)

FIG. B



The Office Action's reasoning is then understood to conclude that the Kinoe, et al. patent necessarily includes a rasterization of a non-rasterized object to be highlighted. At this point, Applicants wish to point out that Claim 1 is not limited to the mere rasterizing of an object to be highlighted but requires receiving unrasterized base graphic data comprising a selected graphic object to be highlighted, providing unrasterized selection graphic data including a counterpart graphic object corresponding to the selected graphic object, rasterizing the base graphic data, rasterizing the selection graphic data, and compositing the rasterized base graphic data on the rasterized selection graphic data. Accordingly, the Long, et al. patent must teach these detailed features of Claim 1.

The Long, et al. patent is understood to efficiently allow a user to manipulate a region of interest of an already-rasterized, i.e., a bitmap image. The Examiner appears to agree with this understanding of the Long, et al. patent. See the Advisory Action mailed December 12, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that any teachings of the Long, et al. patent, in combination with the teachings of the Kinoe, et al. patent, would apply post RIP (post reference numeral B2 in FIG. B, herein). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of the Long, et al. patent would not teach or suggest at least the rasterization steps of Claim 1 missing from the Kinoe et al. patent.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the Kinoe, et al. patent and the Long, et al. patent taken separately or in any proper combination. No other cited references have been used to teach or suggest these features of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 52 and 53 include the same or similar features to these discussed above in connection with Claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Fastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.